

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 07687 151555Z

ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5153

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, AMGT, PDIP, CF, US

SUBJECT: VISIT OF SURVEY TEAM TO BRAZZAVILLE

REF: STATE 187527

1. SURVEY TEAM HEADED BY ACTING POL COUNSELOR ROBINSON CONFERRED INITIALLY WITH FRG AMBASSADOR DERIX UPON ARRIVAL BRAZZAVILLE MORNING OF AUGUST 10. DERIX AND HIS STAFF WERE VERY HELPFUL THROUGHOUT VISIT. TEAM WAS THEN ACCOMPANIED BY DERIX TO CORDIAL MEETING WITH CONGOLESE FOREIGN MINISTRY CABINET DIRECTOR IKOUEBI. IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL POINTS, IKOUEBI:

- EXPRESSED PLEASURE RE NEWS OF ARRIVAL LATE SEPTEMBER OF CHARGE, ADDING THAT HE AND FOREIGN MINISTER OBENGA LOOKED FORWARD TO GREETING CHARGE UPON THEIR RETURN FROM UNGA EARLY OCTOBER;

- APOLOGIZED FOR SLOWER PACE ON CONGOLESE SIDE, EXPLAINING THAT THEY HAVE LEARNED FROM FRENCH THAT FORMER CONGOLESE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON REQUIRES SUBSTANTIAL RENOVATION FOR WHICH FUNDS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE BEFORE EARLY 1978;

- CHARACTERIZED CONGOLESE ACTIONS LEADING TO US WITHDRAWAL IN 1965 AS IMMATURE, PROMISED FULL COOPERATION IN FUTURE, AND ADDED WITH BROAD SMILE (AND THE VIGOROUS CONCURRENCE OF DERIX)

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THAT DIPLOMATS WORKING BOTH SIDES OF THE RIVER HAVE FOUND THAT OBSTACLES TO FREE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN BRAZZAVILLE AND KINSHASA ARE USUALLY OF ZAIRIAN ORIGIN.

2. IKOUEBI, WHO RECEIVED MEMBERS OF SURVEY TEAM IMMEDIATELY UPON THEIR ARRIVAL AT FOREIGN MINISTRY, WAS RELAXED AND FRIENDLY THROUGHOUT MEETING. HIGHLY RESPECTED BY DERIX, HE SEEMED BOTH

GENERALLY ABLE AND THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH DOSSIER ON US/
CONGOLESE RELATIONS.

3. ROBINSON PAID BRIEF CALL FOLLOWING DAY ON FRENCH DCM THUILLIER,
WHO ALSO SEEMED GENUINELY PLEASED WITH NEWS OF CHARGE'S ARRIVAL.
IN ADDITION TO RITUAL PLEDGES OF ASSISTANCE, THUILLIER SUGGESTED
THAT HE OR AMBASSADOR DUFOURCQ INTRODUCE CHARGE TO SOCIAL SCIENCE
SECTION OF OFFICE DE RECHERCHES SCIENTIFIQUES ET TECHNIQUES
D'OUTRE-MER (ORSTOM), WHOSE MEMBERS COULD HELP FILL IN GAPS IN
OUR KNOWLEDGE OF CONGOLESE SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRENDS SINCE 1965.

4. IN BRIEF, ATMOSPHERE IN BRAZZAVILLE AT PRESENT IS QUITE FAVORA-
BLE. REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS FOLLOWS BY SEPTEL.
CUTLER

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Message Attributes

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